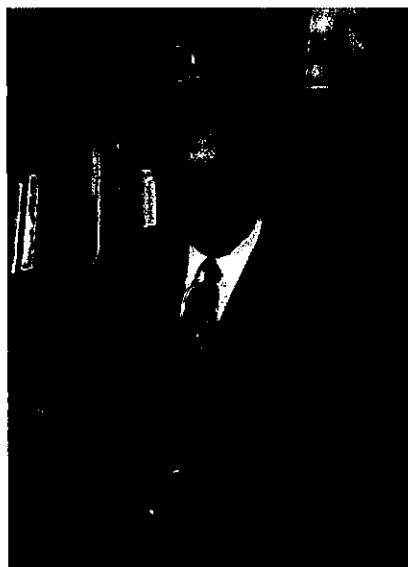


*The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of The American Jewish Archives.*

## ABOUT THE AJA

### DR. GARY P. ZOLA - BIOGRAPHY



**Gary Phillip Zola** is the Executive Director of The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives, the world's largest freestanding research center dedicated solely to the study of the American Jewish experience. Dr. Zola also serves as Professor of the American Jewish Experience at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati. In his academic capacity, Professor Zola edits The Marcus Center's award-winning biannual publication, *The American Jewish Archives Journal* — one of only two academic periodicals focusing on the total historical experience of American Jewry. In 2006, Dr. Zola became the first American Jewish historian and the first American rabbi to receive appointment to the Academic Advisory Council of the congressionally recognized Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.

Dr. Zola is the second director of the American Jewish Archives, having succeeded his teacher and mentor, Dr. Jacob Rader Marcus (1896-1995), a pioneering scholar in the field of American Jewish history and the institution's founding director. Under Zola's leadership, the physical home of the American Jewish Archives (AJA) tripled in size. The AJA's Malloy Education Building, dedicated in 2005, houses electronic classrooms, distance learning centers, and

public exhibition galleries.

While serving as Executive Director, Dr. Zola has initiated an impressive array of innovative historical programs and projects that have captured the attention of both the Jewish and general communities. The national commemoration of the 350th anniversary of Jewish life in America constitutes the most notable example of Zola's contribution to the field. He is widely acknowledged as the initiator of this national commemoration marking the arrival of the establishment of New Amsterdam's first Jewish community in 1654. Zola was the organizer and chair of the congressionally recognized Commission for Commemorating 350 Years of American Jewish History, a consortium of research institutions established to promote the study of American Jewish history and thereby enhance the significance of the 350th anniversary. The Commission represented a historic collaboration of the Library of Congress, the National Archives and Records Administration, the American Jewish Historical Society and The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives.

In his capacity as Commission chair, Rabbi Zola was invited to serve as guest chaplain at the U.S. House of Representatives (September 21, 2004) and the U.S. Senate (May 26, 2005). He participated in opening ceremonies for the Commission's historical exhibitions held at the Library of Congress (September 8, 2004), the Cincinnati Museum Center (February 13, 2005), the American Jewish Historical Society (May 16, 2005), and the HUC-JIR Skirball Cultural Center (November 8, 2005). On September 14, 2005, Zola delivered the invocation at the 350th Gala Dinner in Washington, D.C., where President George W. Bush delivered the keynote address.

Dr. Zola is a historian of American Jewry. He is widely acknowledged as an expert on the development of American Reform Judaism. His published volumes include *The Americanization of the Jewish Prayer Book* (New York: Central Synagogue, 2008); *A Place of Our Own: The Rise of Reform Jewish Camping in America* (co-edited with Michael M. Lorge and published by the University of Alabama Press, 2006); *The Dynamics of American Jewish History: Jacob Rader Marcus's Essays on American Jewry* (Brandeis University Press, 2004); *Women Rabbis: Exploration and Celebration* (HUC-JIR Alumni Press, 1996) and *Isaac Harby of Charleston* (the University of Alabama Press, 1994), a major biographical study on the life of one of the founders of the first organized effort to reform Judaism in the United States of America. His scholarly articles have appeared in publications including *American Jewish History*, *American Jewish Archives*, *Southern Jewish History*, *Canadian Jewish History*, the *Journal of Reform Judaism*, and the *Hebrew Union College Annual*. Dr. Zola is currently working on a volume that is tentatively titled, *He Was Like One of Us: American Jewry and the Idealization of Abraham Lincoln*, which is expected to appear in 2010.

On December 6, 1999, Zola appeared on ABC's "Nightline" which brought the voice and message of Rabbi Stephen S. Wise to its listeners. The show was prompted by the rediscovery of hundreds of aluminum disk recordings that are now being preserved at the AJA. A noted interpreter of the American Jewish experience, Dr. Zola has been quoted by the *New York Times*, the *Chicago Sun-Times*, and numerous national publications

Prior to assuming leadership of The Marcus Center, Zola served for more than 15 years as the National Dean of Admissions, Student Affairs and Alumni Relations for HUC-JIR. During his tenure as the school's chief admissions officer, Rabbi Zola admitted more than 800 students to the College-Institute — more than any other admissions officer in the history of the institution. In this capacity, Zola served as Production Consultant for the movie "Rabbi" -- a one-half hour cinema verite on the work of the American Reform rabbi (1989).

Dr. Zola and his wife Stefi have four children: Mandi, Jory, Jeremy, and Samantha. The Zolas reside in Cincinnati, Ohio.

## LIST OF PUBLICATIONS of GARY PHILLIP ZOLA:

### BOOKS (authored)

- *Isaac Harby of Charleston* by Gary P. Zola (Tuscaloosa, Alabama, University of Alabama Press, 1994).

### BOOKS (edited)

- *A place of our own : the rise of Reform Jewish camping : essays honoring the fiftieth anniversary of Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute, URJ, in Oconomowoc, Wisconsin* edited, with an introduction by Gary P. Zola and Michael M. Lorge (Tuscaloosa, Alabama: The University of Alabama Press, 2006).
- *The Dynamics of American Jewish History: Jacob Rader Marcus's Essays on American Jewry*, edited, with introduction and notes by Gary P. Zola (Waltham, MA: Brandeis University Press, 2004).
- *Women Rabbis: Exploration and Celebration* edited by Gary P. Zola (Cincinnati: HUC-JIR Rabbinic Alumni Association Press, 1996).
- *Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion -- A Centennial History, 1875-1975* written by Michael A. Meyer and edited by Gary P. Zola (Cincinnati: Hebrew Union College Press, 1992).
- *To Learn and To Teach: Your Future as a Rabbi* written by Alfred Gottschalk and revised by Gary P. Zola (New York: Richards Rosen Press: 1988).

### HISTORICAL ARTICLES

- "The First Reform Prayer Book in America: The Liturgy of the Reformed Society of Israelites" in Dana Evan Kaplan (ed.) *Platforms and Prayer Books: Theological and Liturgical Perspectives on Reform Judaism* (New York: Rowman & Littlefield Press, 2002), pp. 99-118.
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- "The Man Behind the Name: Stephen S. Wise" in *Stephen S. Wise Temple* (October 2001), pp. 6-7.
- "An Account of the Jews and Judaism 34 Years Ago in New York (Circa 1870)" by Zvi Hirsch Bernstein (annotated and translated from the Hebrew by Gary P. Zola), in *The American Jewish Archives Journal* (forthcoming).
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- "Funding Rabbinic Education: Retrospect and Prospect" in *CCAR Journal* Winter, 1997 (Vol. XLIV, No. 1), pp. 9-24.
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- "Isaac Harby" (entry) in *Reform Judaism in America: A Biographical Dictionary of Reform Judaism*, edited by Marc Lee Raphael, Lance Sussman and Kerry Olitzky (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1993).
- "Maximillian Heller" (entry) in *Reform Judaism in America: A Biographical Dictionary of Reform Judaism*, edited by Marc Lee Raphael, Lance Sussman and Kerry Olitzky (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1993).
- "Gustavus Poznanski" (entry) in *Reform Judaism in America: A Biographical Dictionary of Reform Judaism*,

edited by Marc Lee Raphael, Lance Sussman and Kerry Olitzky (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1993).

- "NFTY After Fifty Years: A Symposium" in *Journal of Reform Judaism* Fall, 1989 (Vol. XXXVI, No. 4), pp. 1-3.
- "Jews" in *Encyclopedia of Colonial and Revolutionary America*, edited by John Mack Faragher (New York: Sachem Publishing Associates, 1990), pp. 216-217.
- "The American Rabbinate, 1960-1986: A Bibliographic Essay," (Cincinnati: *American Jewish Archives*, 1988).
- "Louis Kraft" (entry) in *Biographical Dictionary of Social Welfare in America*, edited by Walter I. Trattner (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1986).
- "Louis H. Levin" (entry) in *Biographical Dictionary of Social Welfare in America*, edited by Walter I. Trattner (Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Press, 1986).
- "A History of the Communitarian Settlement Known as 'New Odessa'" (a translation of Herman Rosenthal's Hebrew essay with introduction by Zola) in *The American Jewish Farmer* (Cincinnati: American Jewish Archives, 1986).
- "You Are in Canada Now: Zvi Hirsch Masliansky on Montreal Jews - 1898" in *Canadian Jewish Historical Society*, Spring 1985 (Vol. 9, No. 1), pp 31-40.
- "HUC, JTS and Women Rabbis" in *Journal of Reform Judaism*, Fall 1984 (Vol. XXXI, No. 4), pp. 39-45.
- "Reform Judaism's Pioneer Zionist: Maximillian Heller" in *American Jewish History*, June 1984 (Vol. LXXIII, No. 4), pp. 398-421.

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- "Isaac Harby" (entry) in forthcoming The South Carolina Encyclopedia, edited by Thomas M. Downey (Columbia, SC: Institute for Southern Studies).
- "Penina Moïse" (entry) in forthcoming The South Carolina Encyclopedia, edited by Thomas M. Downey (Columbia, SC: Institute for Southern Studies).
- "Julius Eckstein" (entry) in forthcoming American National Biography, edited by John A. Garraty (Oxford University Press).
- "Solomon B. Freehof" (entry) in forthcoming American National Biography, edited by John A. Garraty (Oxford University Press).
- "James K. Gutheim" (entry) in forthcoming American National Biography, edited by John A. Garraty (Oxford University Press).
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- "Jacob Voorsanger" (entry) in forthcoming American National Biography, edited by John A. Garraty (Oxford University Press).
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- "The High School Community Period" (with Kerry M. Olitzky) in *The Jewish Principal's Handbook*, edited by Audrey Friedman Marcus and Raymond A. Zwerin (Denver, Colorado: Alternatives in Religious Education, 1983), pp. 327-336.
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- "On Being A Blessing" in *The Orchard: A Compendium of Sermonic and Other Material*, Fall 1997, pp. 9-10.
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- "Who Will Lead Us Tomorrow?" in *Reform Judaism*, Fall 1988 (Vol. 17, No. 1), pp. 4-6.
- "Becoming a Rabbi" in *Keeping Posted* (Vol. XXXIII, No. 6), pp. 14-15.

## BOOK REVIEWS

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- Review: *Rabbi Max Heller: Reformer, Zionist, Southerner, 1860-1929* by Bobbie Malone in *AJS Review* (Vol. XXIV, No. 1, 1999).
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- Review: *This Happy Land: The Jews of Colonial and Antebellum Charleston* by James William Hagy in *American Jewish Archives* Fall/Winter, 1994 (Vol XLVII, No. 2), pp. 357-362.
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 Cincinnati - New York - Los Angeles - Jerusalem